

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – March 11, 2015

Board Members present: Pat Gold, Michael Donham, V.V. Martin, Carol Airasian, Dorothy Jean Brown, Burt Greenberg, Linda Moffitt and Alice Wadden.

Members Excused Absence: Mary Keenan

Staff Members present: Caryl Fox and Debbie Dunn and Rae Grassia

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed by members of the Board. Dorothy Jean Brown made a motion to approve and Carol Airasian seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

The Board reviewed the financial reports. Caryl Fox noted that the Friends of the COA gave a generous donation to the Marshall Home Taxi Fund which was running low on funds.

3. Introduction of COA Principal Account Clerk:

Caryl Fox introduced Rae Grassia to the Board members. Rae started working at the Senior Center in early January. She has had years of experience working in many Town Hall departments and more recently has been at the Commander's Mansion for the past 8 years. Debbie is training Rae on the Town's Financial System. Rae is a wonderful addition to the COA staff!

4. Snow and Cold Weather- Seniors and the Center Update:

The severe winter weather impacted Watertown seniors and the programming at the Center. People stayed home due to snow and ice, cold temperatures and poor driving conditions. We had many requests for referrals for snow shoveling and plowing. The Center was closed for 3 different days and there were also 3 days that activities and the shopping bus were cancelled. Seniors are now returning to the Center.

5. AARP 2015 Tax Assistance Program:

The 3 volunteer tax preparers all worked in Watertown last year including the coordinator who has been here for many years. Seniors and individuals with disabilities who are low to moderate income and have non-complicated returns are eligible to get appointments. Tax returns are prepared on the computer and submitted electronically. This is a popular service and we are now booking appointments into the end of March. Last year, we helped 84 households.

6. Submitted FY '16 COA Budget Spreadsheet:

Caryl reviewed the budget that was submitted to the Town Manager for FY '16. All departments had to prepare level service and 2.5% reduction budget scenarios. For the level service budget, Caryl requested small increases in building maintenance and the office, program and food supplies line items. The conditions for the 2.5% reduction budget have been met by the starting salaries for the new COA staff which are less than the pay levels of the staff who retired.

7. Forum on Homelessness:

Alice Wadden reported on the meeting which will profile homelessness in Watertown, Belmont and Waltham. It will be held on Sunday, April 26th at 1:00 PM at St. Joseph's Hall in Belmont. The Watertown State Representative and State Senator are planning to attend. A list of interesting speakers is being prepared.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox